



“A Time for Reconciliation”

December 20, 2015

Lynn Haven United Methodist Church

Introduction

“And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying ‘Glory to God in the highest, and peace on earth, good will toward men.’” (Luke 2:13-14 KJV)

Is there really peace on earth and good will toward men in our world today? Were the angels wrong in their pronouncement? Recent research of the Greek language has shown the meaning of the angels’ proclamation to be more like the following: “Glory to God in the heavenly heights, peace to all men and women on earth who please him” (The Message) or “Glory to God in highest heaven, and peace on earth to those with whom God is pleased” (NLT). The angels did not make a blanket declaration of peace. Peace was available for those “who please God.” Hebrews 11:6a says, “It is impossible to please God without faith.” The Prince of Peace provides peace to all who choose to live by faith. In Christ’s kingdom, we find peace with God, the peace of God, and peace with others.

Discussion Questions

1. Does our world have peace on earth and good will towards men?
2. Peace with God comes when we put our faith in Jesus Christ. Read Romans 5:1, 10-11. How does Christ make us friends with God rather than His enemies?
3. What does it mean when we call Jesus, the Prince of Peace?
4. Read John 14:27, Philippians 4:6-7, and John 16:33. The peace of Christ isn’t like the world has to offer. God gives us the gift of the Holy Spirit. How has prayer and worship provided peace for you during a troubling time?
5. How would you encourage a fellow Christian struggling with peace to pray and trust God?
6. Read 2 Corinthians 5:18. When you became a Christian, how did it change your relationship with others, especially relationships where peace was not present?
7. Discuss the difference between being a peace *lover* and a *peacemaker*. What are some steps you can take to become more of a *peacemaker*?

Conclusion

Reconciliation does not mean every issue will be resolved. However, to have true peace, we must open our hearts to the Prince of Peace and allow Jesus to be born in us and live through us.